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TAGS: PREL UNSC MASS KPKO SU NO  
SUBJECT: DARFUR HYBRID OPERATION

REF: STATE 89941

Classified By: ADCM Kristen Bauer, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) On June 29 we delivered reftel points to Anne Kjersti Froeholm, Senior Adviser in the Global Security Issues and Crisis Management Section. The GON continues to investigate whether a joint Norwegian-Swedish engineering unit is possible, with a precondition that any unit would clearly be under the command and control of the UN, and not the African Union. The GON voices strong reservations that the AU cannot provide such a unit's necessary security protections and medical evacuation needs.

¶2. (C) Although hopeful that the AU, UN and GOS have reached agreement on several issues concerning the hybrid force, she agrees with USG skepticism that the GOS will "unconditionally" accept a joint UN-AU force, and raised doubts about Sudan's intentions. Froeholm is hopeful that issues will be addressed more easily given the emergence of a joint UN-AU Special Representative. She is also encouraged that the large 20,000 member hybrid force may offer additional security guarantees.

¶3. (C) Froeholm reiterated that a joint Norwegian/Swedish engineering force is widely supported in Norway. She questioned however, whether the force would be needed, given that three engineering units from China, Thailand and Pakistan will now be supporting the hybrid force. She noted that an opportunity for Norway to get involved may still exist if a fourth unit is warranted.  
Whitney